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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/709,187	11/10/2000	David Raccah	ZAM-0001	4972

7590 02/27/2006

PATENT DEPARTMENT- Barry Young
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EXAMINER

WANG, LIANG CHE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2155

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/709,187	RACCAH ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Liang-che Alex Wang	2155	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-8 and 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,6-8 and 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11-14 are presented for examination.

The New Grounds of Rejection

2. Applicant's amendment and argument with respect to claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11-14, filed on 11/25/2005 have been fully considered but they are deemed to be moot in views of the new grounds of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
4. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
5. Regarding claims 1 and 8, the word "may" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention.
6. All dependent claims are rejected to as having the same deficiencies as the claims they depend from.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 1, 6, 7, 8, 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Choquier et al., US Patent Number 5,951,694, hereinafter Choquier.
9. Referring to claim 1, Referring to claim 1, Choquier teaches a storage system (figure 1), comprising:
 - a. a plurality of system servers (items 120, 126, 128, 130, 134, 144) connected to one another by a communication network (network 122) having at least one node (each server is a node), wherein each system server includes at least one process that provides a storage system function independent of the states of other system servers in response to a request to the storage system that may affect multiple system servers (Col 25 lines 31-33, each application server handle service requests independently), and wherein the storage system functions include:
 - i. at least one gateway service that includes a plurality of gateway servers (gateway 126), each gateway server hosting at least one client process (client 102) that can process client requests and pass the resulting set of requests to the storage system (Col 5 lines 22-24, gateway links client requests (incoming calls) to application servers) and including a process that may access at least one server directory (service map 136) to determine the location of a system server that can service a generated client request (Col 10 lines 32-37, gateway uses service map to determine location for service);

- ii. at least one storage server service that includes a plurality of storage servers (application servers 120), each storage server including a process that accesses tiles stored in the storage system independent of the files accessed by other storage servers (Col 6 lines 22-31, application server contains application to service client requests, and Col 25 lines 31-33, each application server handle service requests independently);
- iii. at least one service further comprises a metadata service that includes a plurality of metadata servers (arbiters 128), each metadata server including a process that accesses a set of metadata independent of the metadata sets accessed by other metadata servers (Col 9 line 66- Col 10 line 12); and
- iv. wherein the at least one instance of a storage server services and at least one instance of a metadata service are separate from each other such that the services may be scaled independently of each other (Col 25 lines 31-33, each application server handle service requests independently).

10. Referring to claim 6, Lin teaches the storage system of claim 1, further including:
at least one server directory (service map 136 and global registry 145) that includes location information and service capabilities of the system server, at least one server directory providing at least one server location in response to a request to the storage system (Col 10 lines 47-61).


11. Referring to claim 7, Lin teaches the storage system of claim 1, further including:
a routing request server (administrator server 134) that provides system server location information (server to server allocation) in response to a request to the storage system, the location information corresponding to a system server that is capable of servicing the request (Col 6 lines 48-56).
12. Referring to claims 8, 11, 13, and 14, claims 8, 11, 13 and 14 encompass the same scope of the invention as that of the claims 1, 6, 7. Therefore, claims 8, 11, 13, and 14 are rejected for the same reason as the claims 1, 6, and 7.


Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liang-che Alex Wang whose telephone number is (571)272-3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
14. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571)272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
15. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair->

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direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Liang-che Alex Wang 
February 16, 2006


SALEH NAJJAR
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER